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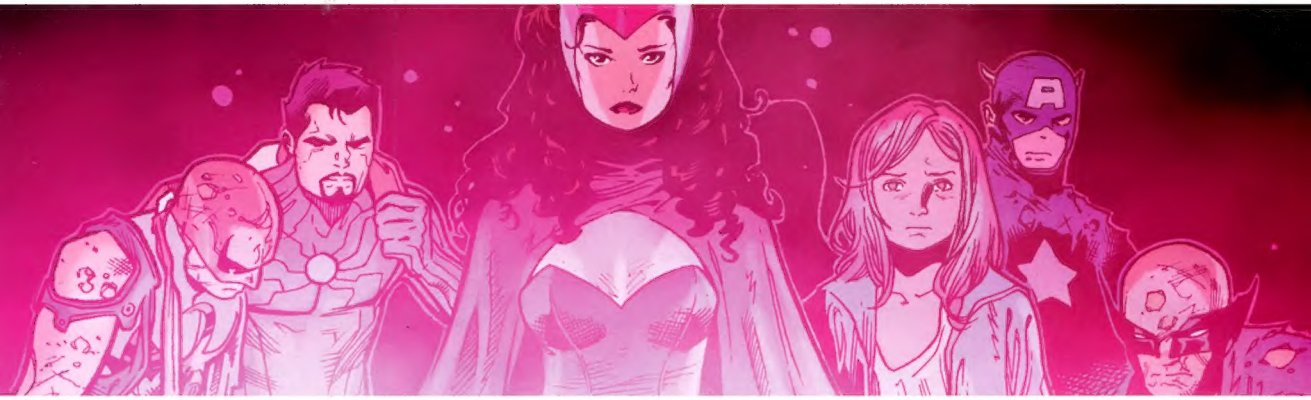
THE PHOENIX FORCE HAS ARRIVED! TONY STARK BUILT A "PHOENIX KILLER" SUIT OF ARMOR TO STOP THE POTENTIALLY CATACLYSMIC COSMIC ENTITY. INSTEAD, HE FRAGMENTED IT, CAUSING PORTIONS OF THE FORCE TO INHABIT IN X-MEN CYCLOPS, MAGIK, COLOSSUS, EMMA FROST AND NAMOR!

IN THE DAYS SINCE, THE PHOENIX FIVE HAVE BEEN ON A MISSION TO RESHAPE THE WORLD, DESTROYING ARMAMENTS, RAISING CROPS, PURIFYING WATER. HOWEVER, THERE ARE STILL THOSE WHO DON'T TRUST THE ALL-CONSUMING NATURE OF THE PHOENIX FORCE. THE AVENGERS LAUNCH A MISSION TO KIDNAP HOPE, BELIEVING THAT SHE STILL HOLDS THE SECRET TO THE PHOENIX FORCE'S POWER.

THE X-MEN DISRUPT THEIR PLANS, AND JUST AS IT LOOKS LIKE THE WAR WILL START ANEW, THE SCARLET WITCH APPEARS, SPEAKING OF VISIONS OF A TERRIBLE FUTURE AND THEN LEAVING WITH HOPE AND THE AVENGERS. BELIEVING THE EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES WILL NEVER ALLOW MUTANTS TO LIVE IN PEACE, CYCLOPS MAKES A VOW: "NO MORE AVENGERS."



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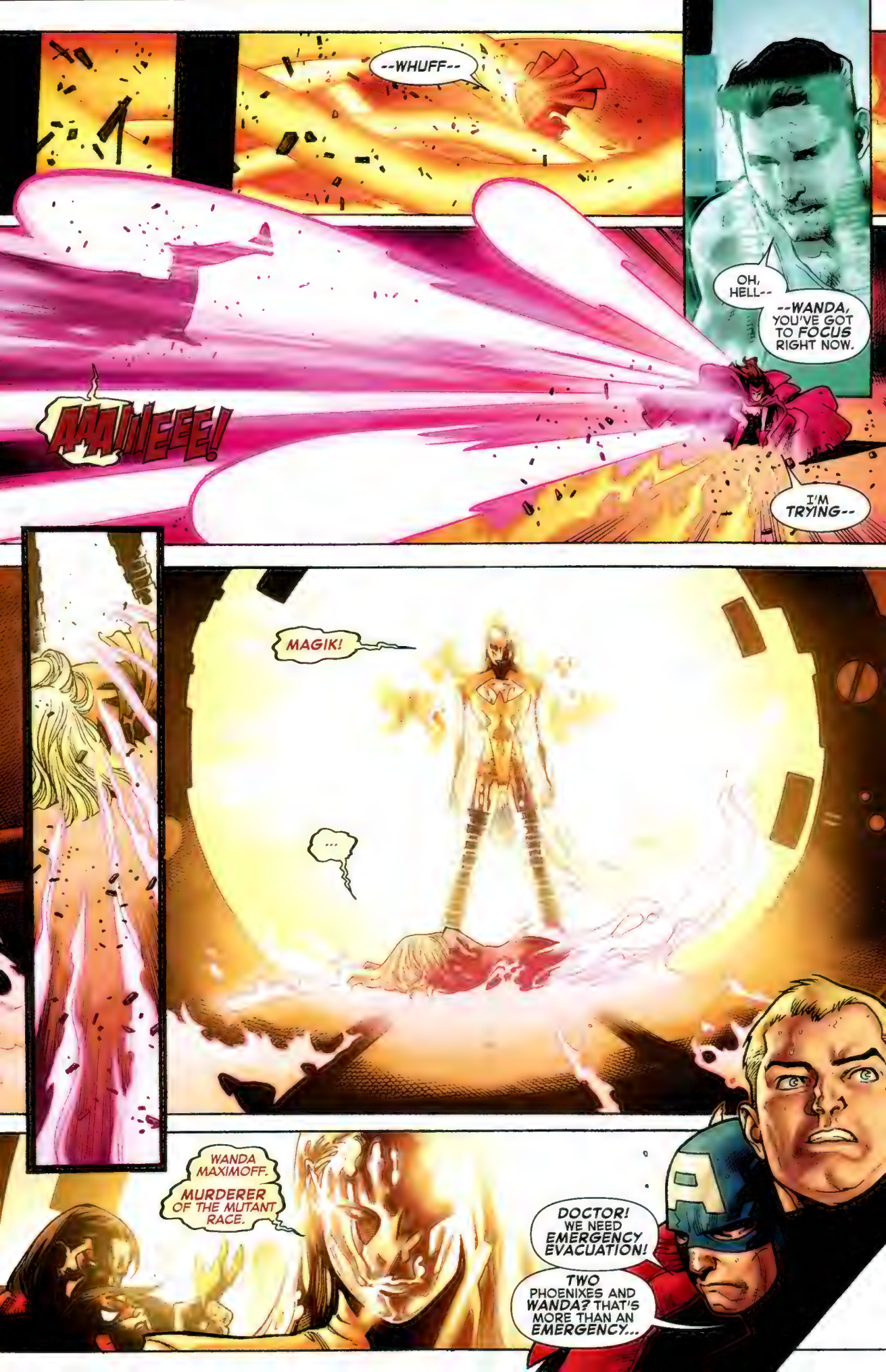
AVENGERS TOWER IS SECURE. NO ONE IN OR OUT.
SO NOW THEN...
WHERE IS CAPTAIN AMERICA? AND MORE IMPORTANTLY... WHERE IS THE SCARLET WITCH?
THIS WOMAN WIPED OUT MUTANTKIND WITH A SENTENCE FRAGMENT. SHE SHOCKED ME ON UTOPIA AND I ACTUALLY FELT IT.
STAR
I WANT HER OFF THE BOARD. SHUT DOWN, CONTAINED. SHE IS OUR OBJECTIVE.
CLOSING DOWN AVENGERS OPS, MAKING CAP LOOK LIKE AN OLD FOOL...
...THAT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD. WANDA MAXIMOFF IS THE ONLY REAL THREAT THEY HAVE IN THE FIELD RIGHT NOW.
AVENGERS ACADEMY IS SEALED OFF. THEIR MILITARIZED CHILDREN WILL HAVE TO HOLD THEIR YOUTH RALLIES SOMEWHERE ELSE NOW...
DON'T WORRY-- WE KEEP THE PRESSURE ON THE AVENGERS. WE'RE REBRANDING THEM AS A GLOBAL TERRORIST NETWORK.
JUST REMEMBER-- HE'S NOT AFRAID TO FIELD HER. AND THAT MEANS WE ARE GOING TO START GETTING HURT.
THEIR HOVEL IN CENTRAL PARK IS CLEAR...
SCOTT, WE FOUND THEM!

WE FOUND THEM ALL...!
AVENGERS-- SCRAMBLE!
CUT OFF THEIR EXIT.
--GAH--
LESE LE BON--
SHUT UP.
--GRRAH--
THEY'RE MOVING PRETTY FAST, CAP.
THEN MOVE FASTER.
WANDA. LAY DOWN SOME COVER...
AR

I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.
I CANNOT SUGGEST ANY MORE HIGHLY HOW DISMAL A NOTION I FIND THAT.
THIS ISN'T EASY FOR ME, VISION. I'D APPRECIATE YOU PRETENDING TO HAVE A HEART FOR--
WANDA, SWEETHEART, TONY HERE--
NEED YOU TO STAY FOCUSED OR THE DATA SKEWS.
CAN YOU DO THAT FOR ME? WE NEED PURE--
I CAN TRY.
NOW STOP TALKING...

YOU.
ON BEHALF OF MUTANTKIND--
DIE.
DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT I CAN DO?!?
THAT'S IT, THAT'S IT, GET INTO HER HEAD--
NOOOO101
ONE DOWN.
GOOD START.
VISION!


--WHUFF--
OH, HELL--
--WANDA, YOU'VE GOT TO FOCUS RIGHT NOW.
AAA!!!EEE!
I'M TRYING--
MAGIK!
...
WANDA MAXIMOFF.
MURDERER OF THE MUTANT RACE.
DOCTOR! WE NEED EMERGENCY EVACUATION!
TWO PHOENIXES AND WANDA? THAT'S MORE THAN AN EMERGENCY...

BARTON!
GO--
CAPTAIN, YOUR EGRESS HAS ARRIVED...
YOU
WANDA, GET THE HELL OUT--
HOW DARE YOU?!

WE'RE TRYING TO SAVE THE WORLD!
EEYYAAARRGGH--!
CLINT--
CLINT--!
IT'S TOO LATE, WANDA...
...IT'S TOO LATE...
NO NO NO NO NO...
TOO SOON! YOU'RE BACK TOO SOON--
I NEEDED MORE DATA, MORE TELEMETRY FROM THE--
GO TO HELL!
MAN DOWN, STARK.
WE'VE GOT A MAN DOWN.

UTOPIA.
WE FINALLY HAVE THE POWER TO REMAKE THE WORLD IN OUR IMAGE.
WE HAVE TO GET ALONG TO DO IT...AND NOT KILL PEOPLE THAT DISAGREE WITH US.
I DIDN'T KILL HIM AND I WASN'T TRYING TO KILL HIM. I GOT MAD, AND THE POWER--
LOOK, HAWKEYE'S STILL ALIVE, AND WE CAN HEAL HIM, SO TELL ME WHY MUST I BE CHASTISED SO?
I SAY YOU SHOULD HAVE KILLED THEM. YOU SHOULD HAVE KILLED THEM ALL.
NAMOR, WE'RE PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE AVENGERS ON A GLOBAL SCALE, SHUTTING DOWN THEIR OPERATIONS AND CAPTURING KEY MEMBERS...HOW DOES MURDER--
THIS IS A WAR, SUMMERS! NOT SOME KIND OF GANG BRAWL!
YOU DIDN'T SEE HER, SCOTT. YOU DIDN'T HEAR HER.
SHE ACTUALLY HURT ME AND I THINK SHE ENJOYED IT. I DON'T BELIEVE THAT FAIRY TALE THEY'RE TRYING TO SELL US--I LOOKED AT WANDA MAXIMOFF AND I SAW...
I SAW EVIL, SCOTT. I SAW EVIL THAT CAN HURT US ALL.
I THINK THE PHOENIX CAME TO US SO WE COULD PURGE THAT EVIL FROM EARTH FOREVER.
YOU'RE WRONG, ILLYANA.
HAWKEYE WILL BE ALLOWED TO HEAL, THEN PUT HIM IN THE X-BRIG WITH THE REST OF THE PRISONERS.
THIS ISN'T A WAR.
IT'S A RESCUE MISSION. CONDUCT YOURSELVES ACCORDINGLY.

WAKANDA.
STARK, T'CHALLA-- WHERE ARE WE?
WE'RE LOSING PEOPLE, LOSING GROUND, AND STARTING TO LOSE FAITH--
WE NEED SOME WINS AND WE NEED 'EM NOW.
AND IF A FROG HAD WINGS, CAP--
SAVE THE SMART MOUTH FOR SOME OTHER END OF THE WORLD, TONY.
ANSWERS. SOLUTIONS. NOW.
WE HAVE MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS. STARK'S ANALYSIS OF WANDA DURING YOUR LAST SCRIMMAGE PROVIDED US VOLUMES OF ADDITIONAL DATA BUT AT THIS POINT...
WE DON'T EVEN SEE THE WHOLE OF THE EQUATION, CAP. THE SCALE OF THE PHOENIX FORCE AND THE CATASTROPHIC EFFECTS MY... MEDDLING...HAD ON IT...
...WE NEED MORE DATA. WE NEED MORE TIME.
"STALL" WAS NOT THE ANSWER I WAS LOOKING FOR, FELLAS.
FIND ME A BETTER ONE. FAST.

STARK...IF I'M PARSING THESE PLANS OF YOURS CORRECTLY...
YOU'RE TRANSFORMING THIS ARMOR INTO A COLOSSAL SUICIDE SUIT.
WELL.
ASSUMING WE CAN EVEN GET THESE FIVE PHOENIXED-OUT X-MEN IN THE SAME PHYSICAL SPACE AS THE SUIT?
THERE'S A 13% CHANCE OF IT ACTUALLY REDIRECTING THE ENERGY WHERE IT CAME FROM AND...
...YEAH, PRETTY MUCH 100% CHANCE OF IT KILLING THE SUIT'S PILOT EITHER WAY.
LOOK, T'CHALLA, THIS IS MY FAULT. I WAS THE GUY THAT RAN OFF HALF-COCKED AND CREATED THIS PROBLEM.
SMAK!
IF FIXING IT MEANS A ONE-WAY TICKET THEN I'VE EARNED IT--
AR
SCIENCE IS FAILING US AND YOU'RE CONCERNED WITH WRITING YOUR OWN ENDING. THAT IS AS UNACCEPTABLE AS YOUR PRECIOUS LITTLE 13%.
SCIENCE FAILS. YOU HAVE FAILED. YOU DON'T GET TO KILL YOURSELF TO ESCAPE FINDING A SOLUTION.
ANY SUGGESTIONS YOU GOT, SUCKER PUNCH, I'D LOVE TO HEAR 'EM.
WAKANDA IS THE MOST SCIENTIFICALLY ADVANCED SOCIETY ON EARTH, YET I CHEW ROOTS TO CONSULT THE WHOLE OF MY ANCESTRY.
THE PARADOX HAS NEVER ESCAPED ME, STARK. THE BLACK PANTHER PROWLS THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN SUPERSCIENCE AND MAGIC.
WE NEED TO LOOK FOR SOLUTIONS WITHIN THE REALM OF THE SPIRIT.
KILL ME NOW.

FOLKS, THERE'S BAD NEWS AND WORSE. THE BAD IS THAT THE X-MEN HAVE STARTED TAKING PRISONERS. THE WORSE IS STARK AND T'CHALLA NEED MORE TIME.
SO WE'RE GOING BACK OUT INTO THE FIELD AND PLAYING ROPE-A-DOPE WITH THESE GUYS A WHILE LONGER.
OUR ACE IN THE HOLE IS HOPE SUMMERS WHO IS AS MUCH AN EXPERT ON THE PHOENIX FORCE...AND THE X-MEN...AS WE'RE GOING TO GET.
I TRAINED MY ENTIRE LIFE IN ANTICIPATION OF POSSESSING THE PHOENIX. AND WHEN THE TIME CAME, I FLINCHED.
WHAT I SEE WHEN I LOOK INTO THE EYES OF SCOTT SUMMERS AND THE REST SCARES ME--NOT BECAUSE THEY'RE, LIKE, BAD PEOPLE, BUT BECAUSE...
THEY SIMPLY CAN'T BE READY FOR WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THEM. SOME OF YOU MAY WISH TO FIGHT THE X-MEN, OR TO STOP THE PHOENIX...
...I WANT TO SAVE MY FRIENDS.
SO WHILE YOU GUYS TRY TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO DO THAT, WHEN YOU FIND THE X-MEN IN THE FIELD...
THE SCARLET WITCH IS THE ONLY THING THAT WILL SCARE THEM. IT'S THE ONLY THING THEY'LL RESPECT.
I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT, BUT IT'S TRUE--THEY HATE AND BLAME HER FOR SO MUCH...
BUT THEY'RE ALSO AFRAID OF HER.
TO THAT END... BEHOLD THE ENCHANTMENTS OF IKONN.
THE ILLUSIONS THEY CREATE WILL MAKE THE BEARER APPEAR TO BE THE SCARLET WITCH...

"IF THE X-MEN CONTINUE TO TAKE PRISONERS THESE CHARMS SHOULD ALLOW FOR SAFE EGRESS WHEN NEEDED...
AVENGERS!
WE'VE GOT COMPANY!
"WE NEED TO DEPLOY THE ENCHANTMENTS OF IKONN SELECTIVELY. USE ONLY IN EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES.
COMRADES, SHUT THEM DOWN.
"BECAUSE ONCE THEY KNOW IT'S A RUSE WE'RE OUT OF TIME. IT MAY BUY US A FEW DAYS. IT MAY ONLY BUY US HOURS."
CAP!
CAP!
THERE'S YOUR CUE, SHARON.
ON IT...

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!
C'MON... COME ON...
BOSZHE MOI, SHE'S HERE--
--MAXIMOFF IS IN NEW YORK.
X-MEN! FALL BACK!
THE UKRAINE.
HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?
SHE'S HERE.

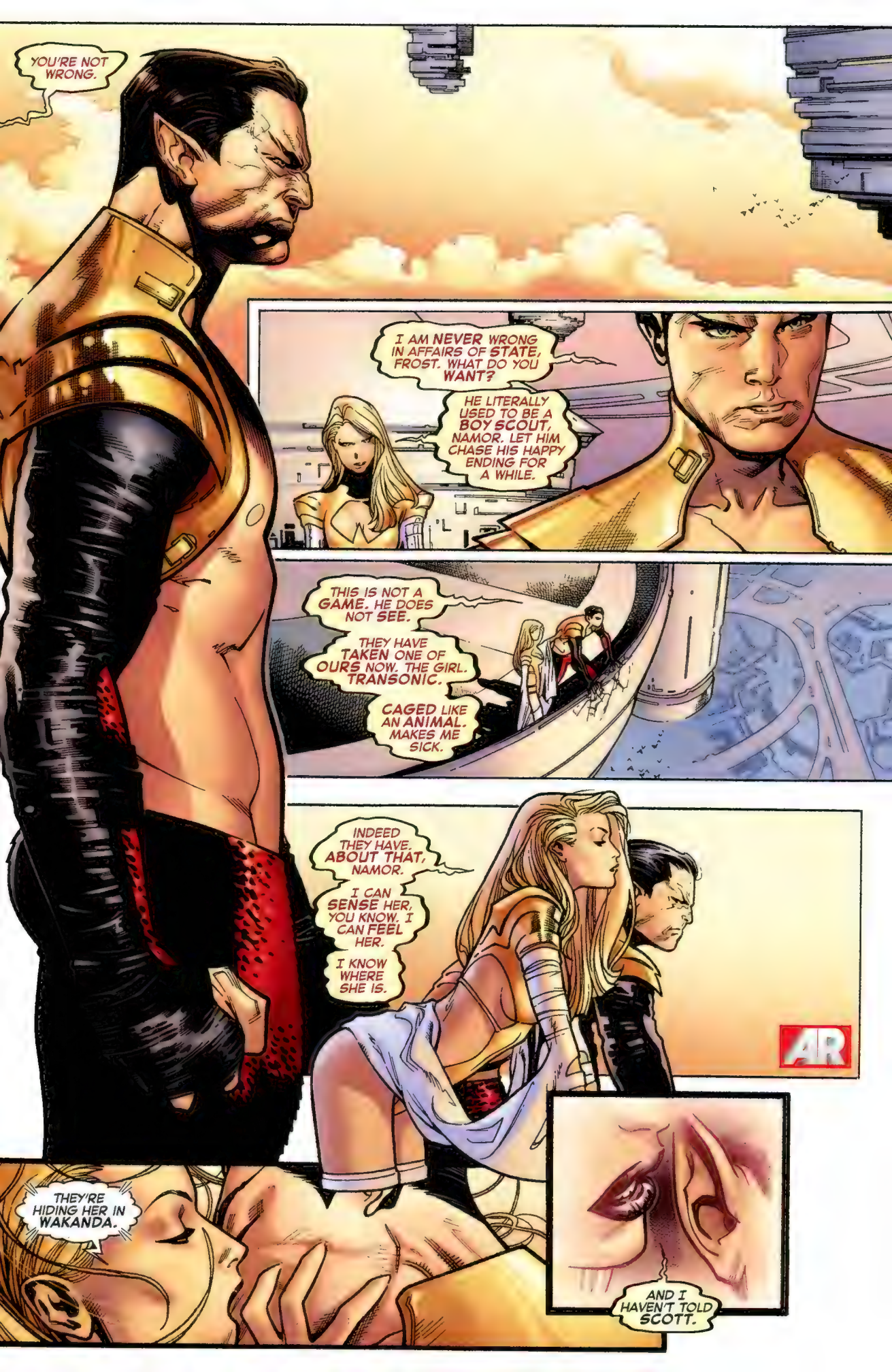
THE ARCTIC CIRCLE.
--SHE CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE.
IT'S A TRICK, A HOLOGRAM OR--
--MAGIC OR SOME TONY STARK CRAP--
SO ENGAGE AND CONTAIN ALREADY.
THE PACIFIC OCEAN.
THEN WHERE IS THE REAL SCARLET WITCH, SUMMERS?
WE'VE STILL NOT LAID HANDS ON HER.
AND YOU NEVER WILL.
FORGIVE ME.

TRANSONIC.
DOING MY BEST, SIR--
DOCTOR, EVACUATE NOW!
GGGNNNAA--!
WAKANDA.
HOSTS OF HOGGOTH--!
SEIZE THE X-MAN--
WITCH!
AAAAA
NAMOR.

GO AWAY.
NNNN--
AR
UTOPIA.
--OOO.
IMPERIUS REX.

THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE.
WE'RE CRIPPLING THE AVENGERS, NAMOR, ONE BROKEN BONE AT A TIME.
WE'RE TAKING PRISONERS, SHUTTING DOWN THEIR FACILITIES, AND HAVE THEM ON THE RUN.
WE'RE BELOVED. THEY'RE MISTRUSTED. AND NOT FOR ANYTHING?
WE'RE TRANSFORMING THE PLANET AT A BREATHTAKING RATE.
WE'RE WINNING, NAMOR. LIGHTEN UP. CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE WITCH WILL COME IN TIME.
THIS! IS NOT! A GAME!
YOU MIGHT BE A FINE LEADER, SUMMERS--
--BUT YOU ARE A FAILURE AS A RULER.
MM.
TAKING IT UNDER ADVISEMENT, NAMOR.

I FOUND IT.
WHEN WANDA AND MAGIK SCRAPPED--THEN AGAIN WITH NAMOR--THE DATA FIELD SPLITS IN TWO--
--THEN SPIKES. HER HEX FIELD AND THE PHOENIX FORCE...BOTH ACCELERATED...
THERE'S A CONNECTION BETWEEN THEM. THEIR ENERGIES--
TONY STARK!
STARK, LEI KUNG THE THUNDERER, OF K'UN LUN, THE MYSTICAL CITY OF KUNG FU WHERE--
--KNOW WHAT? I CAN EXPLAIN LATER.
THEY KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH HOPE, TONY. OR RATHER, HOW TO READY HER.
THE BURNING CYCLE FALLS ACROSS THE PLANE OF EARTH AGAIN, UNLIKE BEFORE.
THE FIRE OF THE PHOENIX WILL CONSUME YOU ALL... AND THEN THE CELESTIAL CITIES OF HEAVEN. THE VESSEL MUST BE PREPARED OR THE INFINITE ARRAY SHALL PERISH.
WE GOTTA TAKE HOPE TO K'UN LUN. THE X-MEN WILL NEVER FIND HER THERE AND HE CAN TRAIN HER BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
CAN WE ALL GO?


YOU'RE NOT WRONG.
I AM NEVER WRONG IN AFFAIRS OF STATE, FROST. WHAT DO YOU WANT?
HE LITERALLY USED TO BE A BOY SCOUT, NAMOR. LET HIM CHASE HIS HAPPY ENDING FOR A WHILE.
THIS IS NOT A GAME. HE DOES NOT SEE.
THEY HAVE TAKEN ONE OF OURS NOW. THE GIRL. TRANSONIC.
CAGED LIKE AN ANIMAL. MAKES ME SICK.
INDEED THEY HAVE, ABOUT THAT, NAMOR.
I CAN SENSE HER, YOU KNOW. I CAN FEEL HER.
I KNOW WHERE SHE IS.
AR
THEY'RE HIDING HER IN WAKANDA.
AND I HAVEN'T TOLD SCOTT.

T'CHALLA! MY LORD!
WHAT NEWS DO YOU BRING?
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A YES...
HOPE AND WOLVERINE ARE ALREADY THROUGH AND ARE IN THE CITY.
WE'LL GET THE EQUIPMENT FOR STARK THROUGH, THEN FALL BACK TO K'UN LUN, REGROUP, AND KEEP FIGHTING.
THUNDERER, YOU'RE CERTAIN WE'LL BE ABLE TO TRAVERSE THE WORLDS? NOT KEEN ON MY PEOPLE LEAVING EARTH AND NOT COMING BACK.
I HAVE BORED A MOLTEN HOLE THROUGH CELESTIAL CLOCKWORK TO COME HERE, CAPTAIN. IT WILL NOT HEAL QUICKLY.
T'CHALLA-- GREAT ONE--THE WATER--
SLOW DOWN, SON. WHAT ARE--
THE LAKE-- TWISTED VISIONS LAKE--IT RISES UP AND--
--A WALL OF WATER SIMPLY ROSE UP--
NAMOR IS HERE.

WAR!
TO BE CONTINUED IN TWO WEEKS...!

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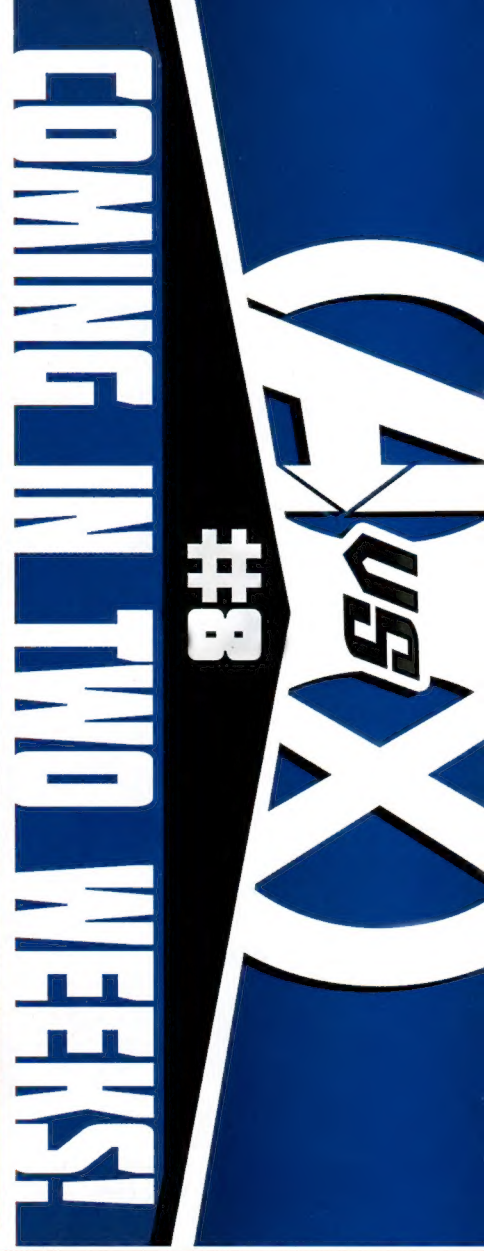

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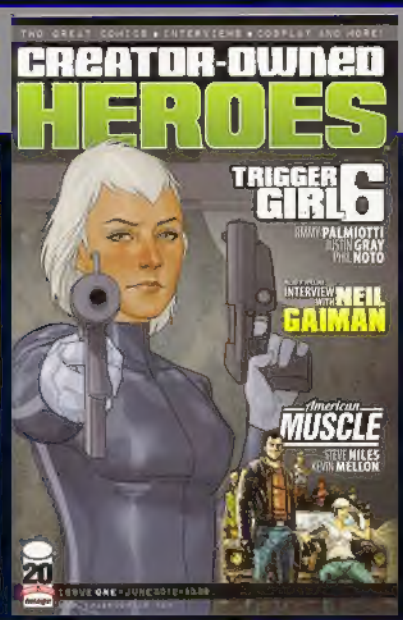

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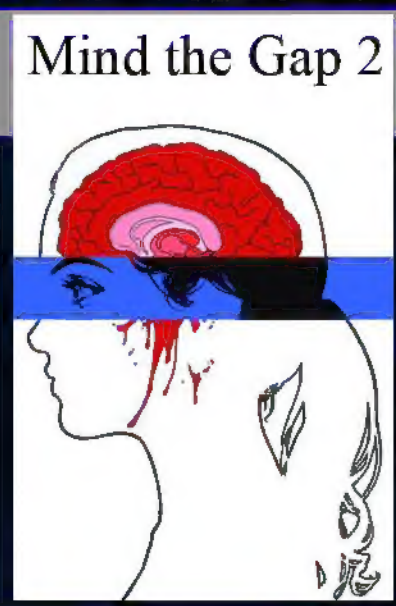

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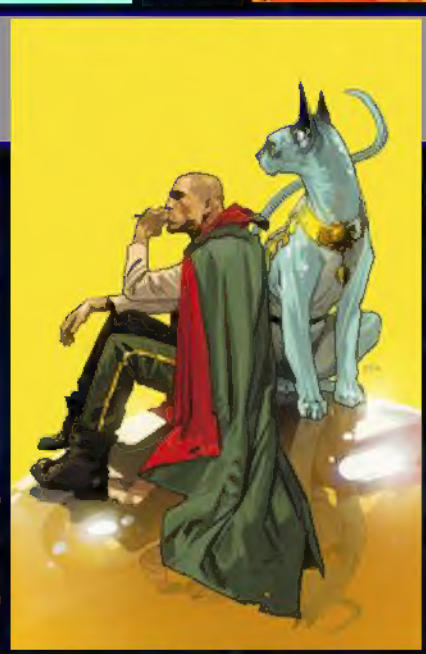

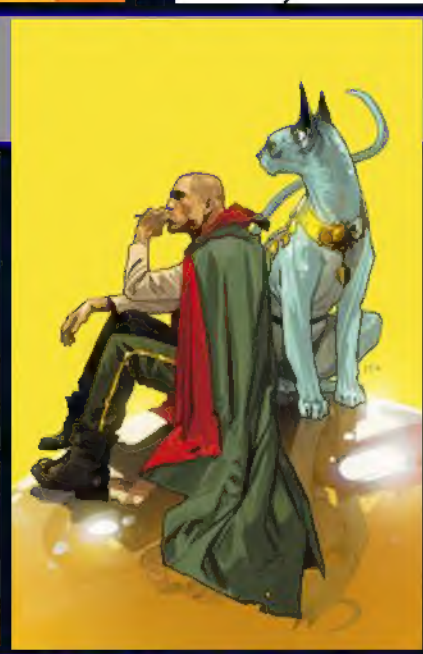

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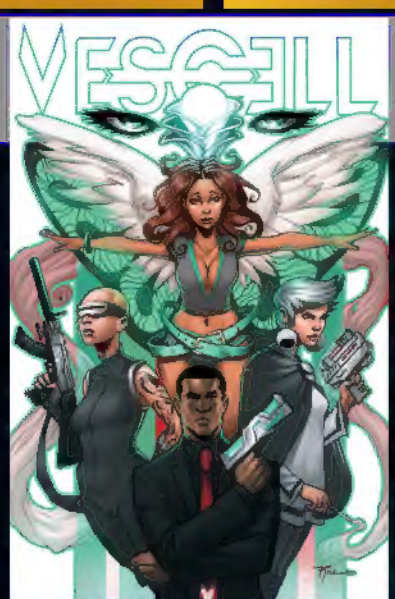

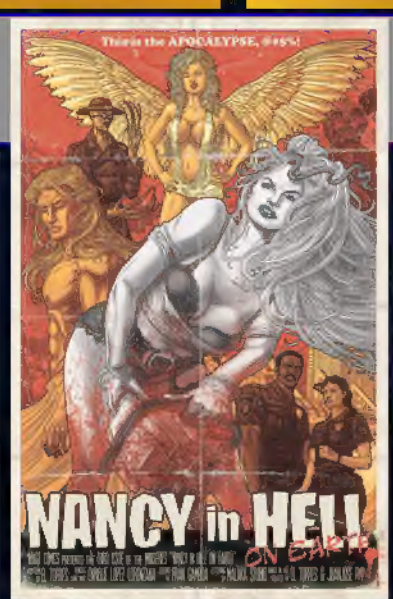

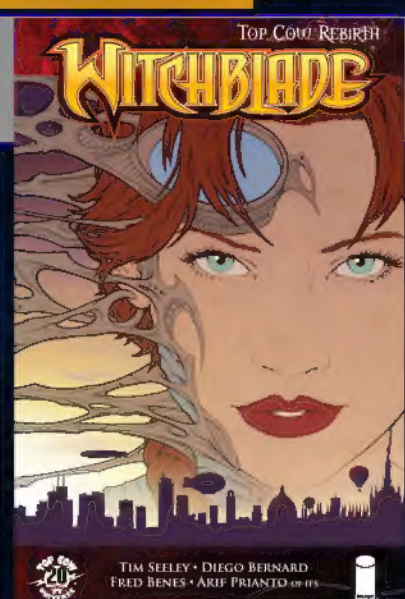

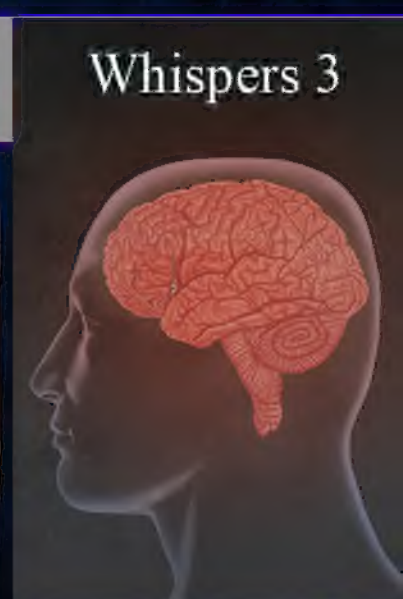

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